

Major economic development projects moving along

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The High Point Enterprise
October 5, 2014*

HIGH POINT — City leaders are welcoming recent news on the economic development front involving two of High Point's largest employers.

Ralph Lauren Corp. will hold a job fair this week as part of an ongoing 900-job expansion project.

And Volvo's North American's corporate headquarters campus now extends into High Point, after construction recently finished on a new office building.

Ralph Lauren, High Point's largest employer, with more than 2,300 workers at five locations in the city, is gearing up to add to its work force.

It hosts a career fair Monday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Morehead Recreation Center, 101 Price St.

As part of its incentives package for the company's \$163 million expansion, it was required by the city to hold three career fairs, two of which have been held, according to High Point Economic Development Corp. President Loren Hill.

Ralph Lauren's facilities include three major apparel and home goods distribution facilities, office operations, a technical facility, a customer contact operation and a research and development facility.

It has another location under construction at Interstate 74 and N.C. 66.

The company's advertisement for the job fair states that it will "showcase a variety of departments." It asks attendees to bring their resumes to the event.

"Join us to speak with our representatives from a wide range of leadership teams and explore potential opportunities, discuss the operations that make our organization successful and gain insight into many of Ralph Lauren's businesses located in High Point," the ad states.

Volvo has moved the first of what will be about 700 of its existing employees to a new, 123,000-square-foot, \$15 million office building on Piedmont Triad Parkway in north High Point.

The project doesn't entail any new jobs, but the company is consolidating workers from several facilities around the Triad at its main campus next to Interstate 40.

"Over the course of just a few days, Volvo is going from not having a presence in our city limits to joining High Point's top 20 largest employers list, as approximately 700 of its employees from nearby in the region move into this newly built facility," Hill said. "We are pleased to welcome Volvo to High Point's business community."

The new building likely is the largest new office construction project in the Triad in the past decade, Hill said.